WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An apparatus for processing electronic commerce transactions, comprising:

a module for receiving a request related to a digital product;

a module for processing the request and for preventing unauthorized access to the digital product; and

a module for transmitting information in response to the request,

wherein the module for receiving, module for processing, and module for transmitting are all housed within a single server.

2.   An apparatus for use in preventing unauthorized access to digital products, comprising:

a database for storing digital products;

a module for providing electronic distribution of the digital products; and

a module for monitoring a user's interaction with the distribution module and for comparing the interaction with particular criteria in order to detect unauthorized attempts to access the digital products.

3.   An apparatus for managing multiple web sites, comprising:

a module for providing an electronic connection with a plurality of web sites;

a module for accessing information from a centralized database, the information being related to the plurality of managed web sites; and

a module for automatically transmitting information from the centralized database to the plurality of web sites, based upon particular criteria, in order to update content of the plurality of web sites.

4.   An apparatus for managing multiple web sites, comprising:

a module for receiving a network connection from an end user machine transferred from an intermediate server among a plurality of intermediate servers managing associated web sites;

a module for identifying the intermediate server that transferred the end user's network connection;

a module for determining a web page presented to the end user by the intermediate server; and

a module for transmitting to the end user machine a web page corresponding to the web page presented to the end user by the intermediate server.

5.   An apparatus for use in providing secure downloading of digital products, comprising:

a database for storing digital products;

a module for providing electronic distribution of the digital products; and

a module for providing secure download of the digital products upon selection by a user through the distribution module.

6.   An apparatus for cache management of dynamic web pages, comprising:

a module for receiving a request for a particular web page;

a module for accessing and retrieving information from a cache for use in responding to the request; and

a module for dynamically and interactively updating the cache based at least in part upon the information provided in response to the request.

7.   An apparatus for cache management of dynamic web pages, comprising:

a module for receiving an electronic search request for a particular digital product;

a module for accessing and retrieving information from a cache for use in responding to the request; and

a module for dynamically and interactively updating the cache based at least in part upon the information provided in response to the request.

8.   An agent associated with a user's machine for use in receiving and customizing information for the user, comprising:

a module for gathering and storing user-specific information concerning digital products stored on a machine associated with the user;

a module for retrieving, customizing, and presenting information on the machine based upon the user-specific information; and

a module for sending information to the machine based upon the user-specific information.

9.   A method for processing electronic commerce transactions, comprising:

receiving a request related to a digital product;

processing the request and preventing unauthorized access to the digital product;

transmitting information in response to the request; and

using a single server to perform the receiving, processing, and transmitting.

10.   A method for use in preventing unauthorized access to digital products, comprising:

storing digital products;

providing electronic distribution of the digital products; and

monitoring a user's interaction with the distribution module and comparing the interaction

with particular criteria in order to detect unauthorized attempts to access the digital products.

11.   A method for managing multiple web sites, comprising:

providing an electronic connection with a plurality of web sites;

accessing information from a centralized database, the information being related to the

plurality of managed web sites; and

automatically transmitting information from the centralized database to the plurality of

web sites, based upon particular criteria, in order to update content of the plurality of web sites.

12.   A method for managing multiple web sites, comprising:

receiving a network connection from an end user machine transferred from an

intermediate server among a plurality of intermediate servers managing associated web sites;

identifying the intermediate server that transferred the end user's network connection;

determining a web page presented to the end user by the intermediate server; and

transmitting to the end user machine a web page corresponding to the web page presented

to the end user by the intermediate server.

13.   A method for use in providing secure downloading of digital products, comprising:

storing digital products;

providing electronic distribution of the digital products; and

providing secure download of the digital products upon selection by a user through the distribution module.

14. A method for cache management of dynamic web pages, comprising:

receiving a request for a particular web page;

accessing and retrieving information from a cache for use in responding to the request; and

dynamically and interactively updating the cache based at least in part upon the information provided in response to the request.

15. A method for cache management of dynamic web pages, comprising:

receiving an electronic search request for a particular digital product;

accessing and retrieving information from a cache for use in responding to the request; and

dynamically and interactively updating the cache based at least in part upon the information provided in response to the request.

16. A method for using an agent associated with a user's machine for use in receiving and customizing information for the user, comprising:

gathering and storing user-specific information concerning digital products stored on a machine associated with the user;

retrieving, customizing, and presenting information on the machine based upon the user-specific information; and

sending information to the machine based upon the user-specific information.

17.   A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method, the method including:

receiving a request related to a digital product;

processing the request and preventing unauthorized access to the digital product;

transmitting information in response to the request; and

using a single server to perform the receiving, processing, and transmitting.

18.   A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method, the method including:

storing digital products;

providing electronic distribution of the digital products; and

monitoring a user's interaction with the distribution module and comparing the interaction with particular criteria in order to detect unauthorized attempts to access the digital products.

19.   A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method, the method including:

providing an electronic connection with a plurality of web sites;

accessing information from a centralized database, the information being related to the plurality of managed web sites; and

automatically transmitting information from the centralized database to the plurality of web sites, based upon particular criteria, in order to update content of the plurality of web sites.

20.   A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method, the method including:

receiving a network connection from an end user machine transferred from an intermediate server among a plurality of intermediate servers managing associated web sites;

identifying the intermediate server that transferred the end user's network connection;

determining a web page presented to the end user by the intermediate server; and

transmitting to the end user machine a web page corresponding to the web page presented to the end user by the intermediate server.

21.   A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method, the method including:

storing digital products;

providing electronic distribution of the digital products; and

providing secure download of the digital products upon selection by a user through the distribution module.

22.   A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method, the method including:

receiving a request for a particular web page;

accessing and retrieving information from a cache for use in responding to the request; and

dynamically and interactively updating the cache based at least in part upon the information provided in response to the request.

23.   A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method, the method including:

receiving an electronic search request for a particular digital product;

accessing and retrieving information from a cache for use in responding to the request; and

dynamically and interactively updating the cache based at least in part upon the information provided in response to the request.

24.   A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to

perform a method, the method including:

gathering and storing user-specific information concerning digital products stored on a

machine associated with the user;

retrieving, customizing, and presenting information on the machine based upon the user-

specific information; and

sending information to the machine based upon the user-specific information.